

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3128

TITLE: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE I

GRADE: S-20

DEFINITION:

Under close supervision, provides basic public health nursing services incorporating health promotion and disease prevention to individuals and/or families in home, clinic, school, and other community locations; health services are provided to clients that have acute or chronic, common, well-defined health problems with typical outcomes; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

This class differs from a Public Health Nurse II in that the Public Health Nurse I functions at the entry-level with direct access to nursing and medical professionals on day-to-day responsibilities. The Public Health Nurse II is at full performance level with greater independence and decision-making responsibilities such as the selection of appropriate methods and procedures to complete tasks.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Provides nursing services (e.g. pregnancy testing, maternity and foreign travel immunization, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and ambulatory care) to individuals and/or families in the home, clinic, office, or community setting;

Participates in health screening and assessment activities;

Administers diagnostic and screening tests for communicable diseases, maternity, psychosocial, and other health care needs;

Gathers health and social histories from clients using a standard protocol;

Reviews laboratory results and interprets tests;

Assists in the implementation of health care plans for individual clients;

Documents public health care service utilization and client outcomes for individual cases, according to established policies, protocols, and procedures;

Maintains records of care in compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements;

Provides information the individual on health promotion, maintenance, and self-care topics, in accordance with designated teaching plan or educational program;

Responds to basic questions from clients, the public, and other health care providers, including questions about community resources;

Complies with professional standards, policies, regulations, and procedures based on federal and state laws and regulations and County community health policies and procedures.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Basic knowledge of nursing theories, principles, practices, methods, processes, and procedures required to provide community health nursing care to individuals, families, and the community;
Knowledge of human growth and development, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology (e.g. side effects, contraindications), preventive medicine, epidemiology, and nutrition;
Knowledge of current practices in public and community health nursing service delivery;
Knowledge of documentation, nursing diagnosis, and quality assurance;
Knowledge of professional standards of nursing practice;
Knowledge of applicable federal, state, and County laws and regulations;
Ability to perform technical nursing procedures (e.g., injections, venipuncture, blood pressure screening, STD check, tube feeding), administering treatments and medications, and using medical equipment in delivering services to clients;
Ability to perform CPR or emergency treatment(s), under direct supervision, for life threatening conditions;
Ability to obtain health history, assess needs, and provide health counseling to clients and families with routine/non-complex health care needs;
Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with others, including clients from varied backgrounds and different situations, in individual or team-based settings;
Ability to assess the quality, appropriateness, implications, and impact of decisions or judgments made by others and identify courses of corrective action, where appropriate;
Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individual or small and large group interactions;
Ability to accurately maintain client medical records and information (e.g., filing, retrieval, recording, and archiving) and to protect the privacy of clients served;
Ability to use technology to document, file, retrieve, make adjustments to medical records or information, and communicate or share public health information in the appropriate format;
Ability to deal calmly and effectively with high stress situations, including a fast-paced work environment, hostile or manipulative individuals, and potentially dangerous situations.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to:
Graduation from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing with an Associate Degree, or equivalent program as determined by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Possession of current license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
Selected positions or area(s) of assignment may require the incumbent to possess a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Selected positions or area(s) of assignment will require the incumbent to successfully complete a state criminal history record check prior to appointment.

REVISED: November 27, 2002
REVISED & RETITLED: July 26, 1993